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agglomerates of metal particles, said metal particles having an average diameter less than about 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and having an oxide layer that prevents contact of said particles with said oxidizer.

REMARKS

By the present amendment claims 20 and 21 have been added to the application.

In response to the Office Action of December 19, 2000 the Applicant elects claims 1-10 and new claim 20, with traverse.

Reconsideration of the requirement for restriction is respectfully requested because the inventions identified in the Office Action are (1) related to one another as product and process for making product, (2) are not distinct and (3) would require no additional effort on the part of the United States Patent Office to examine all claims in the application.

The inventions recited in claim 1 and claim 11 are related to each other as product and process for making product. Metal particles formed by electro-explosion form macro-agglomerates of metal particles. The metal particles have an average diameter less than about 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and have an oxide layer that prevents contact of the particles with the oxidizer.

The inventions recited in claim 1 and claim 11 are not distinct because the process as claimed cannot be used to make another product and the product as claimed cannot be made by another process. The metal powder disclosed in claim 1 can only be made by electro-exploding a metal. The electro-exploded metal powder as disclosed in claim 11 will form

macro-agglomerates of metal particles wherein the metal particles have an average diameter less than about 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  and have an oxide layer that prevents contact of the particles with the oxidizer.


It would require no additional effort on the part of the United States Patent Office to examine all claims in the application. Both claim 1 and claim 11 are directed to an ignition composition for an electrically actuatable igniter. Hence, the Patent Office must search for art related to ignition compositions for electrically actuatable igniters.

An examination of all pending claims in the present application is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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